

REMARKS

In response to the office action dated January 26, 2008, Applicant has amended claim 1. Claim 8 was canceled. Claims 1-7 and 9-11 are presented for examination. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 and 9-11 were rejected over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0089065 (Fujimoto). As shown above, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite that the first and second electrodes are made from a material that is not etched by the etching solution or that is etched, by the etching solution, less than the base body is etched by the etching solution. In view of these amendments, withdrawal of the art rejections is respectfully requested.

Fujimoto describes a method of producing a thermistor chip in which "each outer electrode 3, on a corresponding end part of the thermistor chip 1a is dipped in a resist material 7 ... and the dipped thermistor chip 1a is thereafter dried ... to obtain a thermistor chip 1b ... with each outer electrode 3 covered by a resist layer 8." (See, e.g., Fujimoto at [0030]). "Next, the thermistor chips 1b thus covered with resist layers 8 are placed inside a basket 9 and dipped in [a] solvent 10." (See, e.g., id. at ¶ [0031]). The exposed portions of the chip that are not covered by a resist layer are melted away. (See, e.g., id.).

The Examiner apparently equates Fujimoto's outer electrodes (3) and thermistor body (2), Fig. 1A, to the first and second electrodes and base body, respectively, of Applicant's claims. However, Fujimoto still does not disclose or suggest that "the first and second electrodes are made from a material that is not etched by the etching solution or that is etched, by the etching solution, less than the base body is etched by the etching solution." Nor does Fujimoto indicate

that such an arrangement would be in any way beneficial. Nor would a person of ordinary skill in the art have modified Fujimoto's thermistor in a way to provide such an arrangement. For example, according to Fujimoto the material for the resist is "selected among those which are not melted by the solvent 10," examples given include photoresists of cyclized rubber. (See, e.g., id. at ¶¶ [0300] and [0031]). Due to this resist layer, it is not necessary that the outer electrodes be made of a material which is not etched by the etching solution or that is etched less than the base body is etched by the etching solution. That is, the resist is there to prevent the electrodes from being melted by the solvent. Contrary to this, the claimed process allows for the etching of the base body without substantially etching the first and second electrodes and without the need for applying a separate resist material.

Each of the dependent claims is believed to define patentable features of the invention. Each dependent claim partakes of the novelty of its corresponding independent claim, in light of the foregoing amendments, and, as such, has not been discussed specifically herein.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Please charge any additional fees, not already covered by check, or credit any overpayment, to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 14219-093US1.

Applicant's attorney can be reached at the address shown above.

Respectfully submitted,

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